

Abstract

The present invention provides a drug product for the prevention, improvement in conditions relating to, and/or treatment of diabetes, comprising β (1 \rightarrow 3) glucan derived from vegetable material and having a molecular weight of from about 5,000 to about 20,000. The drug product of the present invention can be widely employed as a diabetes drug for both IDDM and NIDDM, exhibits almost no side effects and does not have an obese effect even when orally administered, can be widely employed as a medical drug for patients in various states of morbidity, and can be employed by patients, generally healthy persons, and other animals in the form of food and drink products such as therapeutic foods and health foods. The present invention provides a method of preventing, improving conditions relating to, and/or treating diabetes comprising administering the above-specified β (1 \rightarrow 3) glucan.